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TO: Examiner Boyd FROM: Bob Curcio

NOTES:

DRAFT PROPOSED Amendment

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Application/Control No. 09/864,976

Art Unit: 1771

To: Examiner Boyd

Suggested claim amendment from Examiner's 3/16/05 Amendment

(Additions should also be added to Claims 17 and 21 as well)

A composite comprising:

a first substrate;

a bonded mixture, said bonded mixture comprising a mixture of binder particles and super-absorbent polymer particles, wherein said super-absorbent particles have a property of forming a three-dimensional array of elongated channels which are formed within said bonded mixture about 1-4 seconds after contact with a liquid wherein said super-absorbent polymer particles are loosely crosslinked, water-insoluble polymers or copolymers to absorb large quantities of water and aqueous solutions with swelling into said three-dimensional array of elongated channels, and said binder particles are on average smaller than said super-absorbent polymer particles, and wherein at least some of said binder particles coalesce at least some of said super-absorbent polymer particles to each other and to said substrate; and

said three-dimensional array of elongated channels within said composite, formed by said super-absorbent particles when in contact with a liquid, promote liquid acquisition into said composite along the three-dimensional array of elongated channels prior to liquid absorption by the super-absorbent polymer particles.

Add to the specification the following sentence, at page 5, in the penultimate paragraph, BEFORE the sentence beginning with "One particular grade of SAP..."

Super-absorbent polymer particles are loosely crosslinked, water-insoluble polymers or copolymers to absorb large quantities of water and aqueous solutions with swelling into a three-dimensional array of elongated channels.